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| <b>Substitute for form 1449A/PTO</b><br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> |        | <b>Complete if Known</b>      |                  |
|  |        | <b>Application Number</b>     | 09/580,721       |
|  |        | <b>Filing Date</b>            | May 20, 2000     |
|  |        | <b>First Named Inventor</b>   | Haberland et al. |
|  |        | <b>Art Unit</b>               | 1216             |
|  |        | <b>Examiner Name</b>          | Michael Thaler   |
| <b>Sheet</b>   | 1 of 1 | <b>Attorney Docket Number</b> | 032528.000007    |

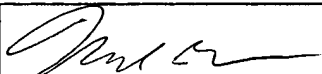
### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Exr<br>Initials* | Document Number              | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee<br>or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>Or Relevant Figures Appear |
|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
|                  | Number- Kind Code (if known) |                                |  |  |
| ✓                | 5,792,112                    | 08/11/1998                     | Hart et al.  |  |
| ✓                | 5,980,493                    | 11/09/1999                     | Smith et al.                                       |  |

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Exr Initials | Foreign Patent Document |         |                      | Name of Inventor or<br>Applicant of Cited<br>Document | Date of Publication<br>of Cited Document<br>MM-YYYY | T |
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| ✓            | EP                      | 0617924 | A2                   | Ethicon, Inc.   | 10-1994   | Y |

### OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Exr Initials                  | Include Name of first Author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (where appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), volume-issue number(s), page(s), date (in parentheses). If a book, also include publisher and city and/or county where published. | T                          |         |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------|
|                               | n/a   |                            |         |
|                               |   |                            |         |
| <b>Examiner<br/>Signature</b> |    | <b>Date<br/>Considered</b> | 7-26-05 |